

A Memorable
National Epoch

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY

The Canadian Club of Halifax

RESPECTING

Nova Scotia and the Empire

HALIFAX, SEPT. 2ND, 1908.
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PRESIDENT



Halifax, Canada,

Sept. 8, 1908.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Canadian Club of Halifax, permit me to bring to your attention copies of documents bearing on a memorable national epoch in the history of Canada and of the Empire.

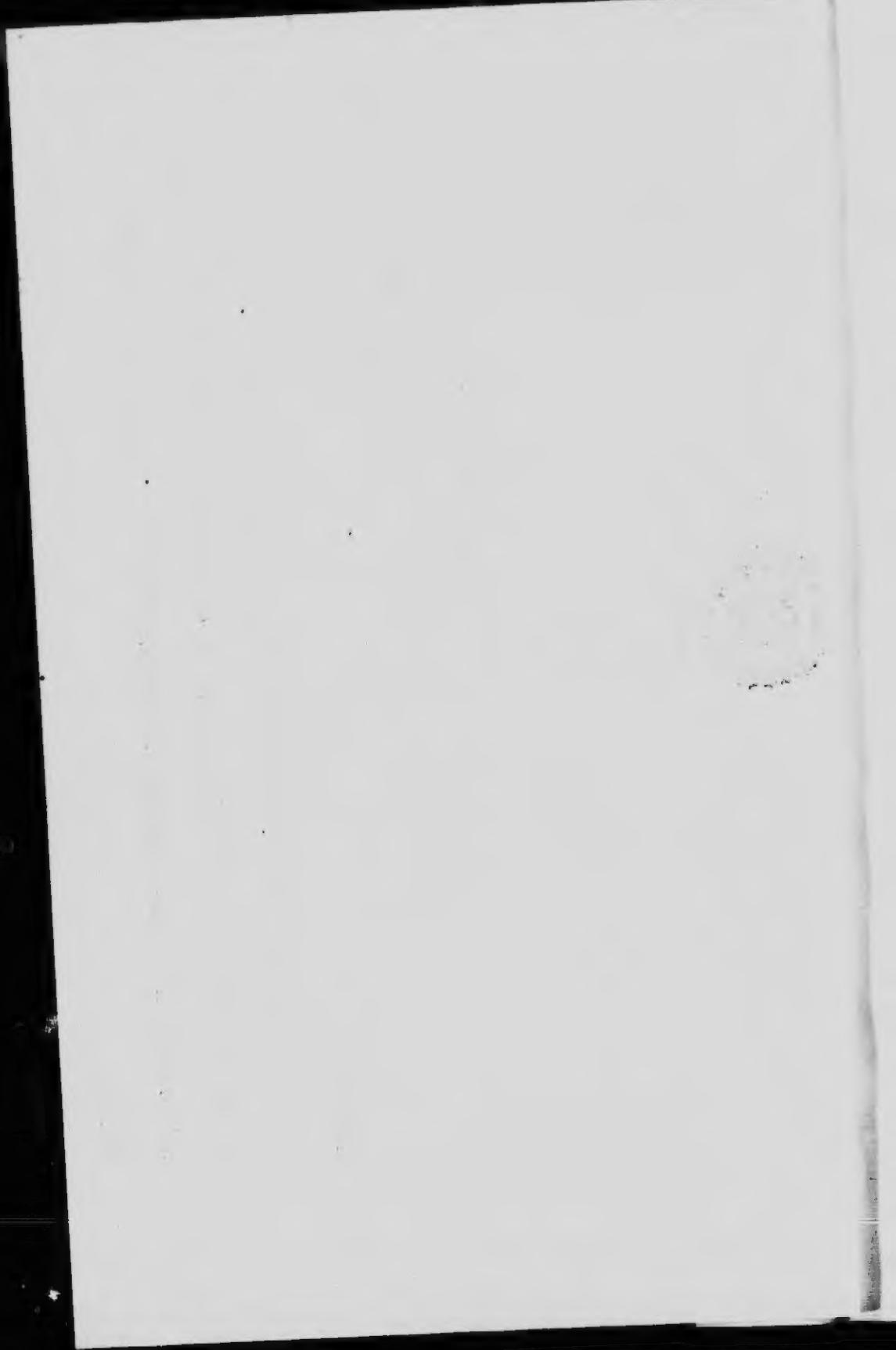
As it is suggested to lay the foundation of

Empire.

As it is suggested to lay the foundation stone of the proposed memorial on October 2, proximo, that day being the day upon which representative Government was first established within the limits of the Dominion 150 years ago, we would greatly value a general expression of approval as early as possible.

Joseph A. Highsmith.

President.



CANADIAN CLUB OF HALIFAX, N. S.,

September 2nd, 1908.

SIR.—The President and Executive Committee of the Canadian Club of Halifax have the honour to invite attention to a movement which cannot fail to meet with general approval, by kindred associations and all patriotic Canadians.

Nova Scotia has many sons non-resident in the province, who naturally would wish to be associated with the promoters of the movement. Those who may desire to express their views, or who may wish to participate by contributions or otherwise in the establishment of a worthy memorial, as suggested in the accompanying papers, will be good enough to communicate with the undersigned, the Secretary of the Club.

The proposal to erect a lofty symbolic memorial Tower is regarded by the thoughtful as excellent; and viewed in the important relations set forth in the documents submitted, the cost, estimated at some \$15,000, should be easily and speedily obtained.

I have the honour to be,

C. A. EVANS, *Secretary.*

1758.

1908.



This Tablet is to commemorate the convening of the first General Assembly of Nova Scotia which met for the despatch of business at the Court House at Halifax on October 2nd 1758 in the time of His Excellency Charles Lawrence, Esquire, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Province of Nova Scotia; Robert Sanderson, Speaker of the House of Assembly and David Lloyd, Clerk of the Assembly.

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| ALEXANDER KEDIE. | MALACHY SALTER. |

THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA IN
AUGUST, 1908.

HIS HONOUR D.C. FRASER,
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HON. G.H. MURRAY,
PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

BRASS TABLET UNVEILED AT THE PROVINCE BUILDING
AUGUST 19th, 1908

A GREAT HISTORICAL EPOCH.

At the old Province Building in Halifax two weeks ago, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, before a large assemblage of citizens, unveiled a brass tablet commemorative of the origin of Parliamentary Government in the Province, a century and a half ago.

A facsimile of the tablet is herewith submitted. From this it appears that the assembly of elected representatives met for the first time at Halifax on October 2nd, 1758. The records, which are carefully preserved among the provincial archives, establish that there have been meetings of the legislature each year continuously since that early date.

The approaching semi-tercentenary on October 2nd of the present year is of peculiar interest to the citizens of Halifax and Nova Scotia. Moreover it stands out as a great landmark in the development of Canadian History. The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the origin of parliamentary government within the limits of the Dominion is indeed a national epoch of profound significance to every Canadian and to the people of the whole British world.

His Honour D. C. Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor, has received a number of documents, all bearing on this great national epoch, pointing out that we owe a duty to ourselves, and still more to the Motherland and to our successors, that we should in a befitting manner commemorate our priceless heritage. His Honour has transferred these documents, with a strong expression of his interest in them and his full approval of the suggestions therein contained, to the Canadian Club of Halifax. The president and executive committee of this club have now the satisfaction to make public the extracts which follow, and they earnestly bring them to the attention of kindred asso-

ciations and all patriotic citizens. They especially appeal to the sons of Nova Scotia, who are widely scattered in distant lands, and who may wish to be associated with the movement to which the documents refer.

EXTRACTS

[From documents submitted by Sir Sandford Fleming.]

NOVA SCOTIA AND THE EMPIRE.

The recent Tercentenary celebration at Quebec, with its exceedingly interesting pageants, has carried our minds back to the time of Champlain, and the first settlements on the shores of the St. Lawrence, from 1608 to 1759. It is well that we should have the historical associations of those early days revived, and be impressed with the events portrayed with such excellent unity of spirit, sympathetic good taste, and genuine patriotism, that all Canadians of whatever origin should now feel a new pride in the history of French Canada as a most important part of the early history of their own land.

At a most notable gathering held at Oxford University scarcely a month since, it was pointed out by the distinguished speakers that a century and a half ago was perhaps the most glorious period in British history. At that period were being laid far and wide the foundations of an ideal world empire. Men worthy of the great races from which they had sprung became prominent agents in welding into a united political organization many sea-separated lands. While men great in military skill, such as Clive, and Wolfe, and Montcalm, and others, had each their place in the evolution of history, one of the prime movers, in the hands of a higher Power, was William Pitt, "the great commoner."

That remarkable man had great wisdom, great foresight, and great designs. For a time he directly

guided the destinies of England and influenced the future of many people geographically remote from England. The records of history bring out clearly what followed the adoption of his policy, and in that policy Nova Scotia appears prominently as a pioneer. One of the first steps to render a great empire possible—one of the essentials to its permanency—was to extend to the people free civil government.

In the march of human progress, the fall of Quebec was, in the mind of Pitt, absolutely necessary, and it is impossible to avoid associating the conflict on the Plains of Abraham in September, 1759, with that statesman who directed the steps of Wolfe to the great Canadian citadel. A considerable time, however, before Quebec became British, even before the fall of Louisburg, steps had been taken to establish parliamentary government in Nova Scotia. The British prime minister was imbued with the most lofty patriotism, and his penetration led him to see the supreme value of constitutional government and a free people. Whatever objections were therefore raised at home or abroad to the policy laid down, they were at once overruled by the master mind in London.

As previously arranged, elections were held among the settlers in Nova Scotia in the summer of 1758, and nineteen (19) of twenty (20) elected representatives met in Halifax in General Assembly, for the first time on October 2nd of that year.

In the development of history it occasionally turns out that a matter which at the time may be regarded of no great moment, will in the course of years prove to be of imperishable importance. The meeting of an assembly of nineteen (19) representative Nova Scotians in 1758 has so proved. Similar general assemblies have met in the same locality each year for a century and a half, and as will be seen from the statement which follows, the same policy has been adopted wherever applicable throughout the Empire, in both hemispheres.

**ELECTIVE LEGISLATURES AND THE DATE OF THE
FIRST ASSEMBLY IN EACH CASE.**

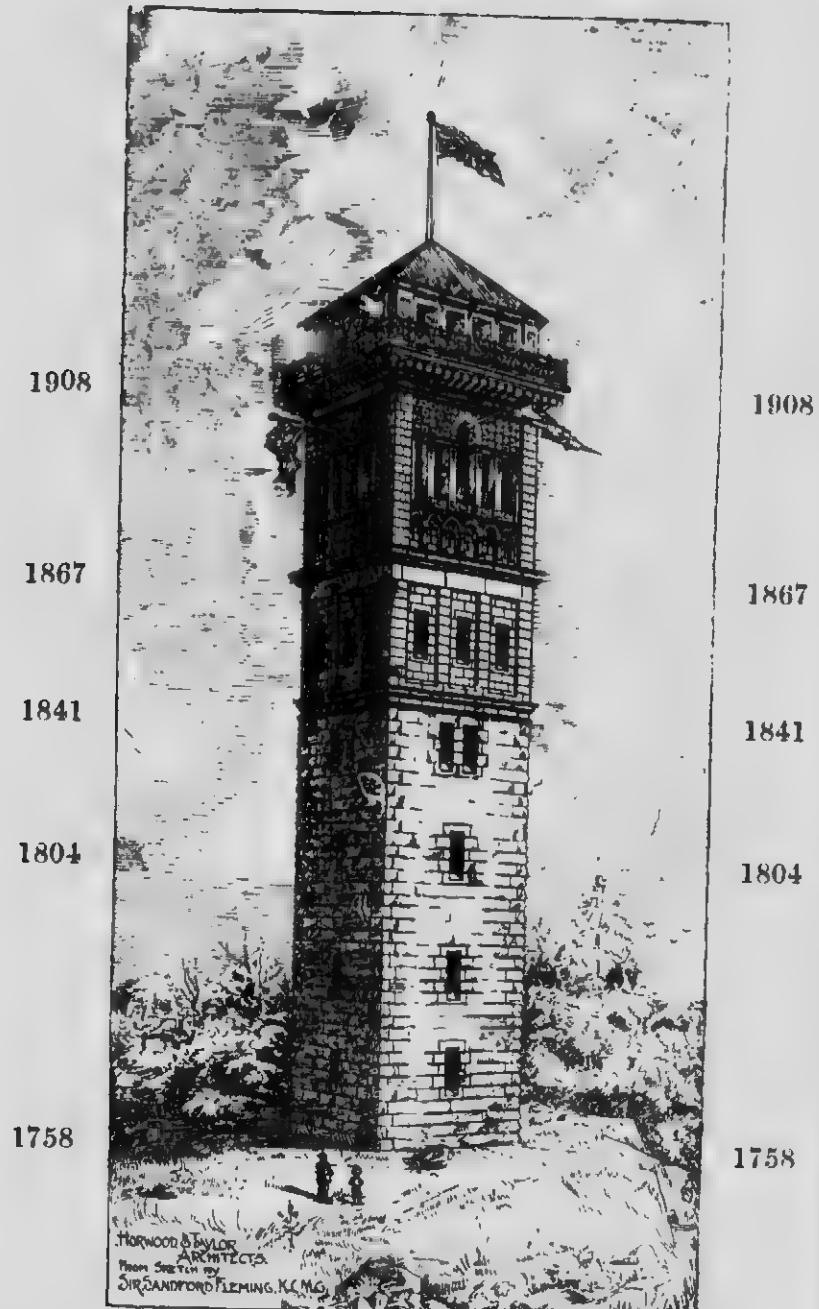
| | DATE. | MEMBERS. |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Nova Scotia | on Oct. 2, 1758 at Halifax .. | 19 |
| Prince Edward Island. | July 7, 1773 " | Charlottwn |
| New Brunswick | Jan. 3, 1786 " | St. John... 26 |
| Upper Canada | Sep. 18, 1792 " | Niagara... 16 |
| Lower Canada | Dec. 17, 1792 " | Quebec.... 50 |
| Newfoundland | Jan. 1, 1833 " | St. John's. 15 |
| Up. and Lr. Canada . | June 14, 1841 " | Kingston.. 84 |
| " " " | Nov. 2, 1844 " | Montreal.. 84 |
| " " " | May 14, 1850 " | Toronto... 84 |
| " " " | Aug. 29, 1852 " | Quebec.... 84 |
| Cape Colony..... | May 1, 1853 " | Cape Town |
| New Zealand | May 27, 1854 " | Auckland.. |
| N. S. Wales | 1855 " | Sydney.... |
| Victoria | 1855 " | Melbourne. |
| Tasmania | 1856 " | Hobart.... |
| South Australia | 1856 " | Adelaide... |
| Queensland | 1859 " | Brisbane... |
| Up. and Lr. Canada.. | June 8, 1866 " | Ottawa.... 84 |
| Prov. of Quebec..... | Sep. 24, 1867 " | Quebec.... 65 |
| Dominion of Canada . | Nov. 6, 1867 " | Ottawa.... 181 |
| Prov. of Ontario | Dec. 27, 1867 " | Toronto... 81 |
| " Nova Scotia. Jan. 30, 1868 " | Halifax.... 38 | |
| " N. Brunswick. Feb. 13, 1868 " | Fred cton.. 41 | |
| " Manitoba ... Mar. 15, 1871 " | Winnipeg.. 28 | |
| " B. Columbia.. Feb. 16, 1872 " | Victoria... 25 | |
| " P. E. Island.. Mar. 5, 1874 " | Charlottwn 31 | |
| West Australia | 1890 " | Perth..... |
| Natal..... | 1893 " | Prtmtzburg 43 |
| Com'nw'lth Australia | May 9, 1901 " | Melbourne. |
| Prov. of Alberta | Mar. 15, 1906 " | Regina.... |
| " Saskatchewan Mar. 29, 1906 " | Edmonton. | |
| Orange River..... | July 1, 1907 " | Bloomfontn 38 |
| Transvaal..... | July 1, 1907 " | Pretoria... 69 |

The list makes no mention of the West Indies, where representative government was introduced at an early date. The system of government of Jamaica was changed in 1866 and replaced by a legislative council appointed by the Crown. The example of Jamaica, in the abrogation of the original system, has been followed in the other colonies of the West Indies.

The foregoing will make plain that Nova Scotia stands at the head of the long list of self-governing countries within the present British Empire, with free constitutions established by authority of the British parliament. Nova Scotia takes her place as the elder sister in the British Constitutional family, and the pioneer meeting of her Assembly was held at Halifax on October 2nd, 1758. At that date the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and much more territory stretching athwart the continent, were under the military rule of the King of France. British Columbia did not become a British colony for a hundred years later. Australia and New Zealand were unsettled and unclaimed. The Cape of Good Hope did not become British until half a century later; it was formally ceded to the British Crown in 1814.

It is impossible to regard the occurrence in 1758, to which special attention is directed, as merely an incident in history. We must regard it in association with a great policy—a policy which has increased the power and broadened the influence of the British people. We must judge it by results, and we find results in every country over which floats that flag which is the emblem of liberty, of justice, of peace, and of patriotism—that flag which for so many generations has given us freedom to flourish in the highest degree.

The foregoing statement of facts goes far to show that while historic Quebec has undoubted claims to be regarded as the birthplace of Canada, the great Motherland has placed Nova Scotia in a position to be regarded as the cradle of the Empire and Halifax as its constitutional birthplace.



SKETCH OF PROPOSED TOWER SUBJECT TO REVISION.

HISTORICAL TOWER SUGGESTED.

1908
1867
1841
1804
758

It has been customary in all ages and by all great races worthy of the name, to celebrate great events and great achievements in their history. We are on the eve of a great and ever memorable anniversary. How can we most worthily commemorate it and proclaim to the world our high sense of gratitude, that we and our forbears have for so many generations enjoyed all the blessings of the fostering and protecting British constitution?

History teaches us lessons. In the early centuries the nations of Western Europe were benefited and enriched by imitating the Romans in many things. If we allow ourselves to be influenced by Ruskin, on this side of the Atlantic, we may with advantage do likewise and imitate the Romans by determining to erect an architectural edifice somewhat on the lines of the celebrated Campanile at Venice, or some other historical tower. In order properly to commemorate the great anniversary which is about to fall due, why should we not symbolize in stone, the history of Nova Scotia since it became the seat of representative government?

The plate is intended to suggest such a historical tower. The edifice is designed to be of noble proportions, and the first course of masonry laid on the bed rock of native Nova Scotia granite would typify the beginning of representative government in the year 1758, associated, as has been shown, so closely with the foundation of the Empire. Each course of massive masonry upwards would have its meaning, and would be adorned by references to the names and deeds of distinguished men who have served their country.

The historical purpose of the building should always be held in view. It was many years before representative government developed into responsible

government; not indeed until 1841-48. Accordingly for a space above the foundation of over eighty years, the tower would be characterized by massive simplicity of outline. Again in 1867 Nova Scotia federated with the other provinces to form the Canadian Dominion, and from the natal day (July 1st) in that year onwards, the pioneer province by the sea has done its full share in promoting the general progress. It should be the aim of the design to denote all such matters in the architectural features of the tower, so that it would strike the beholder as, even in external appearance, appropriately fulfilling the purpose of its erection. The structure itself should be able to tell its tale to the spectator in after years, when present actors may be forgotten. It should practically and unmistakably proclaim the spirit of these words: "This is a birthday tower, erected by a grateful people to inform the world that a new nation was born, and with its birth the old mother became larger, nobler, more perfect than before."

One of the most important events in the formative days of the Empire was the opening of the doors of a legislative assembly in Halifax, by direction of the King, to receive the elected representatives of the early settlers of Nova Scotia. The exact date is almost identical with another event, which occurred in another part of the world. The Nova Scotia representatives had scarcely left their homes to pursue their journey through the woods to Halifax, to meet in assembly for the first time, when a child was born in a country parish in England; a child who lived to make his mark as a naval officer as no other has done since the world began. That child received the name of Horatio Nelson, and at his death some 47 years afterwards, no man could have done more to place our Empire on a broad and lasting basis than the great admiral. Trafalgar cleared the European atmosphere, and contributed in a marked degree to render our colonial empire possible. Up to the date of that glorious victory, as indicated on the proposed

tower, the structure might be characterized by the greatest simplicity in its external outline.

Some nine months before Nelson passed to his reward, a great man—one of the greatest which Canada ever produced—was born in a little cottage on the shores of the North West Arm. The upper half of the tower would be enriched by a reference to the grateful services to his country of Joseph Howe, a man who has done so much to render his name immortal in the hearts of his countrymen. That famous Nova Scotian has provided abundant opportunities for the architectural adornment of the tower.

There are many other distinguished names which would find places of honour at various stages,—that of the Hon. J. W. Johnston would especially be one of them. The efforts of this statesman were greatly valued for a lengthened period, and on no occasion more so than in the complete development of responsible government, the only basis of colonial government upon which the empire of the future can be built up.

As all the world knows, Nova Scotia filled a large place in the first establishment of steam communication between Great Britain and North America, chiefly through the enterprise and foresight of a Halifax merchant, Sir Samuel Cunard.

The first steamship to cross the Atlantic wholly under steam sailed from Pictou, Nova Scotia, August 1833.

Nova Scotia has done much to advance submarine telegraphy. It is now fifty years since the first Atlantic cable was laid.

The Prince of Wales, now King Edward, arrived in Halifax in 1860.

The confederation of the provinces of the Dominion was effected in 1867, of which one of the most powerful advocates was that distinguished and remarkable Nova Scotian, Sir Charles Tupper.

These events and much more of high interest might fittingly be denoted. There might be half a dozen or more galleries in the tower, and places

might be found for references to the names and good deeds of all who have specially served their country.

A striking feature of the general appearance of the edifice would be the modest massiveness of its base in contrast with the more elevated portions, gradually increasing in architectural beauty until crowned by the finale.

In this manner it will be seen that the purpose of the design is to raise a mural symbolic memorial of men distinguished in the public service, and of great events which have occurred at all stages of the history of Nova Scotia; the whole combining the spirit of colonial liberty with imperial stability.

A SITE FOR THE TOWER.

The selection of a proper place for the erection of the commemorative edifice is a matter for careful consideration. Obviously the building should be erected on some conspicuous site, where it would be seen to the best advantage by the greatest number.

Every citizen and every visitor to the capital of Nova Scotia is familiar with the position and charms of that sheltered inlet of the Atlantic Ocean known as the North West Arm. "The Arm," as generally termed, is about three miles in length, situated in the immediate rear of the city, and as indicated on the map its greater portion is but little more than a mile and a half distant in an air line from the City Hall. For the most part, the Arm is within easy reach of all the residential sections of the city. The water is of the purest description, being renewed twice daily from the Atlantic by tidal influence. There are no mud banks or reefs or shoals. The surface is generally unruffled, as it is sheltered from every quarter by foliage-clad, lofty banks; in consequence the Arm is unsurpassed in many respects for boating and canoeing, while it is navigable at all conditions of tide for vessels of any draft.

Midway between Point Pleasant at the entrance, and the head of the Arm, an elevated promontory from the western shore contracts the waterway and forms "the narrows," where it is only 600 feet wide from shore to shore. At this point the Arm is divided into two lake-like expanses of great beauty, and on the elevated promontory mentioned it has been suggested that the historical tower might be placed. This is an ideal site, in full view of the eastern and western halves of the Arm, and regarded as a whole, there are few localities more attractive. The Mayor of Halifax, than whom there can be no better authority, in an official communication (April 11th, 1908) respecting the portion of land desired for Park purposes, employs these words: "The North West Arm has of recent years become probably the chief pleasure resort of our citizens, and it is evidently desirable that a portion of its shores should be kept open to the use of the public, and for that purpose no portion is so well adapted as that proposed to be dedicated."

A memorial tower, placed as suggested, would be seen from a long distance on every side, even from far out on the Atlantic. It would be conspicuous throughout the Arm. It would be in the midst of associations made memorable as the homes or haunts of the Howes, Hills, Thomsons, Cunards, Halibutons, Tppers, Jones', Stairs', Morrows, Kennys, Pryors, Ritchies, Dufus' and other sons of Nova Scotia, and thus in a neighbourhood of old memories and on ground already historic.

In a few years great changes would be effected. Biological and other museums and buildings would probably be grouped around the tower for educational purposes. A simple cable ferry, spanning the narrows of the Arm, would bring the Tower and the Park within easy reach of the city by the proposed railway. In an air-line, the actual distance from the proposed site of the Tower to the intersection of Oxford and South streets, the present end of the street railway,

is only 1,500 feet. By this means and by another extension of the street railway system around the head of the Arm, the proposed new Park and the Tower would readily be approached from both sides. All who are familiar with the locality will readily concede that no health resort on the continent would be capable of being rendered more attractive than this one on the North West Arm.

Doubtless other excellent sites for the proposed Tower might be selected within the limits of Halifax, but it is extremely doubtful if any can be found which in all respects would compare with the one referred to. Moreover, the site specially alluded to is offered by its owner along with the adjoining hundred acres of land, for a public park; both as free gifts, and as contributions to the movement to establish a visible expression of admiration for the system of government settled by constitutional usage and already enjoyed for so many generations under " 'anner of the old Motherland.

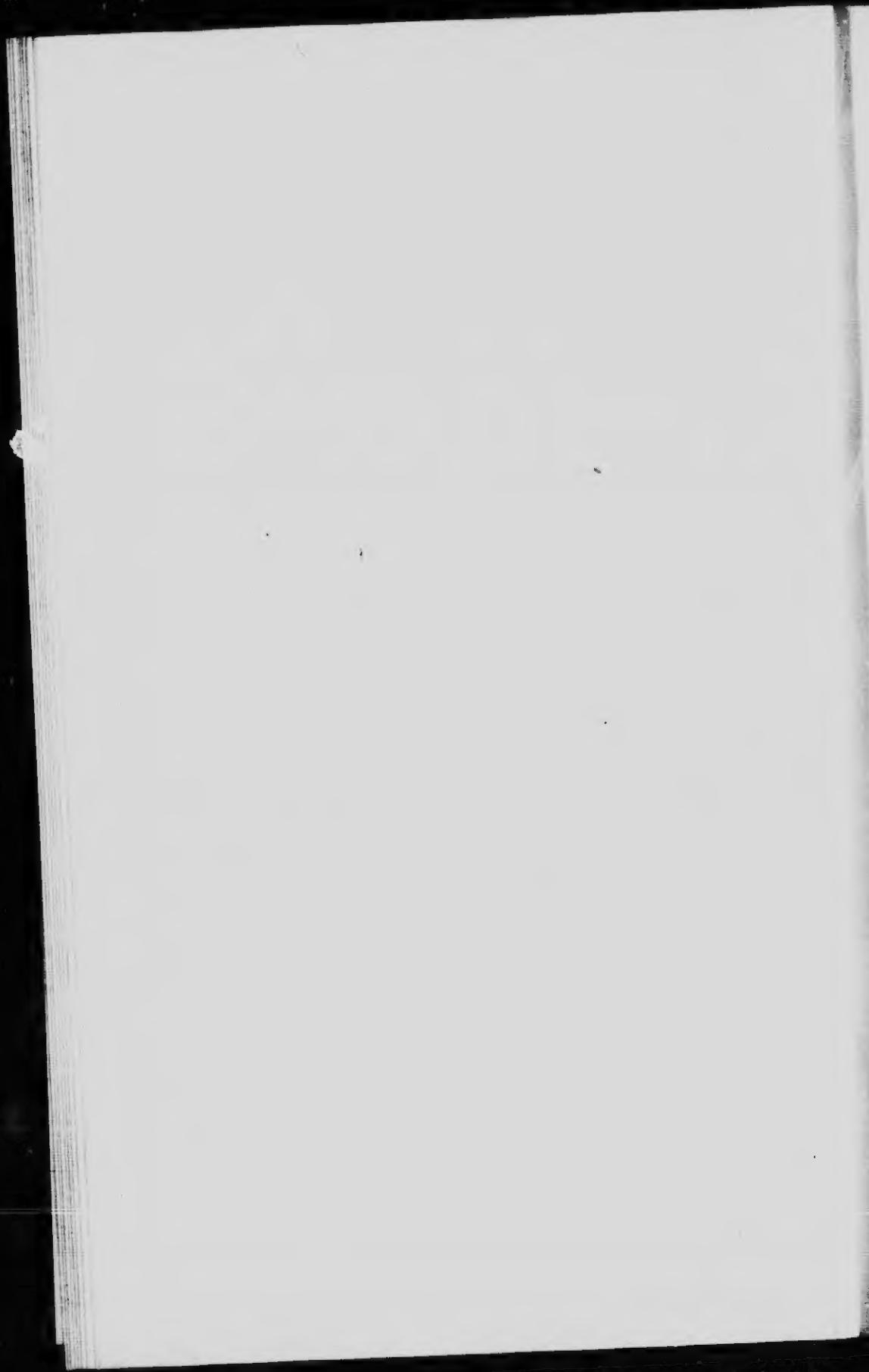
We can never forget that the spirit of our free institutions is inherited from England. Our children and our children's children should always remember that the germs and principles of popular government, which had slowly been developing in the parent state, were transplanted with their full vitality to this side of the Atlantic, by the King's ministers, and have here obtained vigorous growth. It is established in the preceding pages that Nova Scotia has been the pioneer of constitutional government outside of England, and it seems in the highest degree fitting that on this anniversary we should celebrate in a becoming manner what may be regarded as the laying of the foundation stone of the new empire of peace.

In the annals of the human race from the earliest days until a comparatively recent period, there are few traces of friendly intercourse between the nations of the world. The evidence of history goes to show that when nation met nation it was generally in conflict; that to subdue by force of arms was a primary

aim of all past empires, and that the conquests thus gained were held in subjection with an iron grasp.

A great change has been effected in the case of the British Empire, and we must recognize the beginning of the change when the King's ministers in London, 150 years ago, gave evidence of the spirit of justice and wisdom, in granting a measure of self-government to the people of Nova Scotia. With this act of enfranchisement, a new order of things in colonial administration commenced, which only required time to make more perfect. The same principles of self-government have now been extended to all, or nearly all, the more important oversea provinces under the British flag.

For the present we must except India; but it cannot be doubted that the same spirit of justice and wisdom will be extended to India, so soon as the Indian people are ready for self-government. While the Asiatic problem may take long to solve, meanwhile the seed first sown in Nova Scotia from the parent tree, will continue to fructify in all the transmarine British dominions north and south of the equator; and thus blessed with free institutions the sisterhood of nations with common interests and common sympathies, may in friendship and peace co-operate in advancing the higher ends of civilization.



Cable Address: "Canclub," Halifax, Canada.

THE
Canadian Club of Halifax
1908

[FOUNDED FEBRUARY 7, 1907]

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